NUMB. XLIII.

The SPECTATOR.

Hæ tibi erunt artes; pacisque imponere morem,
Parcere Subjectis, & debellare Superbos Virg.

Thursday, April 19. 1711.

THERE are Crowds of Men, whose great Misfortune it is that they were not bound to Mechanick Arts or Trades; it being absolutely necessary for them to be led by some continual Task or Employment. These are such as we commonly call Dull Fellows; Persons, who for want of something to do, out of a certain Vacancy of Thought, rather than Curiosity, are ever meddling with things for which they are unfit. I cannot give you a Notion of them better than by presenting you with a Letter from a Gentleman, who belongs to a Society of this Order of Men, residing at *Oxford*.

Oxford, April 13. 1711.
Four a Clock in the Morning.

SIR,

'IN some of your late Speculations, I find some 'Sketches towards an History of Clubs: But you 'seem to me to shew them in somewhat too ludicrous a Light. I have well weigh'd that Matter, 'and think, that the most important Negotiations may best be carry'd on in such Assemblies. I shall therefore, for the good of Mankind, (which, I trust, you and I are equally concern'd for) propose an Institution of that Nature for Example sake.

'I must confess, the Design and Transactions of too many Clubs are trifling, and manifestly of no Consequence to the Nation or Publick Weal: Those I'll give you up. But you must do me then the Justice to own, that nothing can be more useful or laudable, than the Scheme we go upon. To avoid Nicknames and Witticisms, we call our selves *The Hebdomadal Meeting*: Our President continues for a Year at least, and sometimes four or five. We are all Grave, Serious, Designing Men, in our Way: We think it our Duty, as far as in us lies, to take care the Constitution receives no Harm, —*Ne quid detrimenti Res capiat publica*— To Censure Doctrines, or Facts, Persons, or Things, which we don't like; To smile the Nation at home, and so carry on the War abroad, where and in what manner we see fit: If other People are not of our Opinion, we can't help that. 'Twere better they were. Moreover, we now and then condescend to direct, in 'some measure, the little Affairs of our own University.

'Verily, Mr. *Spectator*, we are much offended at 'the Act for Importing *French* Wines: A Bottle 'or two of good Solid Edifying Port, at Honest 'George's, made a Night Cheerful, and threw off 'Reserve. But this plaguy *French* Claret, will not 'only cost us more Mony, but do us less good: 'Had we been aware of it, before it had gone 'too far, I must tell you, we would have petitioned to be heard upon that Subject. But let that pass.

'I must let you know likewise, good Sir, that 'we look upon a certain Northern Prince's March, 'in Conjunction with Infidels, to be palpably against our good Will and Liking; and, for all 'Monsieur *Palmquist*, a most dangerous Innovation; and we are by no means yet sure, that some 'People are not at the botton on't. At least, my 'own private Letters leave Room for a Politician, 'well vers'd in matters of this Nature, to suspect 'as much, as a Penetrating Friend of mine tells 'me.

'We think we have at last done the Business 'with the Malecontents in *Hungary*, and shall clap 'up a Peace there.

'What the Neutrality Army is to do, or what 'the Army in *Flanders*, and what two or three other 'Princes, is not yet fully determin'd among us; 'and we wait impatiently for the coming in of the 'next *Dyer*'s, who, you must know, is our Authentick Intelligence, our *Aristotle* in Politicks. And 'tis indeed but fit there should be some Dernier 'Resort, the absolute Decider of all Controversies.

'We were lately inform'd, that the Gallant Train'd-'Bands had patroll'd all Night long about the Streets 'of *London*: We indeed could not imagine any 'Occasion for it, we guess'd not a Tittle on't beforehand, we were in nothing of the Secret; and 'that City Tradesmen, or their Apprentices, should 'do Duty, or Work, during the Holidays, we 'thought absolutely Impossible: But *Dyer* being 'Positive in it, and some Letters from other People, 'who had talk'd with some who had it from 'those who should know, giving some Countenance to it, the Chairman reported from the

'Com-

'Committee, apointed to examine into that 'Affair, That 'twas Possible, there might be 'something in't. I have much more to say to you, 'but my Two good Friends and Neighbours, '*Dominie* and *Slyboots*, are just come in, and the 'Coffee's ready.

I am, in the mean time,

Mr. SPECTATOR,

Your Admirer, and

Humble Servant,

Abraham Froth.

You may observe the Turn of their Minds tends only to Novelty, and not Satisfaction in any thing. It would be Disappointment to them, to come to Certainty in any thing, for that would Gravel them, and put an end to their Enquiries, which dull Fellows do not make for Information, but for Exercise. I do not know but this may be a very good way of accounting for what we frequently see, to wit, that dull Fellows prove very good Men of Business. Business relieves them from their own Natural Heaviness, by furnishing them with what to do; whereas Business to Mercurial Men, is an Interruption from their real Existence and Happiness. Tho' the dull part of Mankind are harmless in their Amusements, it were to be wished they had no vacant Time, because they usually undertake something that makes their Wants conspicuous, by their manner of supplying them. You shall seldom find a dull Fellow of good Education, but (if he happens to have any Leisure upon his Hands,) will turn his Head to one of those two Amusements, for all Fools of Eminence, Politicks or Poetry. The former of these Arts, is the Study of all dull People in general; but when Dulness is lodged in a Person of a quick Animal Life, it generally exerts it self in Poetry. One might here mention a few Military Writers, who give great Entertainment to the Age, by reason that the Stupidity of their Heads is quickned by the Alacrity of their Hearts. This Constitution in a dull Fellow, gives Vigour to Nonsense, and makes the Puddle boil, which would otherwise Stagnate. The *British Prince*, that Celebrated Poem, which was written in the Reign of King *CHARLES* the Second, and deservedly called by the Wits of that Age *Incomparable*, was the Effect of such an Happy Genius as we are speaking of. From among many other Disticks no less to be quoted on this Account, I cannot but recite the two following Lines.

A Painted Vest Prince Voltager *had on,*
Which from a Naked Pict *his Grandsire won.*

Here if the Poet had not been Vivacious, as well as Stupid, he could in the Warmth and Hurry of Nonsense, been capable of forgetting that neither Prince *Voltager*, nor his Grandfather, could strip a Naked Man of his Doublet; but a Fool of a colder Constitution, would have stay'd to have Flea'd the *Pict*, and made Buff of his Skin, for the Wearing of the Conqueror.

To bring these Observations to some useful Purpose of Life, what I would propose should be, that we imitated those Wise Nations, wherein every Man learns some Handycraft Work. Would it not employ a Beau prettily enough, if instead of eternally playing with a Snuff-Box, he spent some part of his Time in making one. Such a Method as this, would very much conduce to the Publick Emolument, by making every Man Living good for something; for there would then be no one Member of Human Society, but would have some little Pretension for some Degree in it; like him who came to *Will*'s Coffee-House, upon the Merit of having writ a Posie of a Ring.

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of March, are to be sold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-House, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate, Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard, Mr. Round in Exchange Ally, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality.
For the Benefit of Mrs. Porter.
By her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this present Thursday being the 19th of April, will be presented a Comedy call'd, Love's last Shift; or, the Fool in Fashion. The part of Sir Novelty by Mr. Cibber, Sir Wm. Wiseweu'd Mr. Johnson, Loveless Mr. Wilks, Worthy Mr. Mills, Snap Mr. Penkethman, Sly Mr. Bullock, Amanda Mrs. Porter, Narcissa Mrs. Oldfield, Hillaria Mrs. Bicknell. And to morrow will be presented a Comedy call'd, The Man of Mode, or, Sir Fopling Flutter: For the Benefit of Mrs. Rogers.

In a few Days will be Publish'd

The Life and Acts of Mathew Parker, the First Archbishop of Canterbury in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth. Under which Primacy and Influence the Reformation of Religion was happily Effected; and the Church of England Restored, and Established upon the Principles whereon it stands to this Day. Wherein are related the said Archbishop's Actions in Ecclesiastical Commissions and Synods: His Visitations of the Diocese, Colleges and Hospitals within his Province, with his Injunctions and Regulations; Characters and Accounts of the Bishops by him Consecrated: His Endeavours for Uniformity: His Diligence in Retrieving, and Publishing many Ancient and other Ancient Historical MSS. of this Nation: His Progress a more correct Translation of the Holy Bible: His Government of his own Diocese of Canterbury: His sober Thoughts, Counsels and Cares for Religion and the Church: And many Particulars of the Ecclesiastical History of those Times, hitherto Unknown, or very Obscure, are discovered and brought to Light. Compiled Faithfully out of Records, Registers, State-Papers, Orders of Council, Authentick Letters, and sundry other Original MSS. In Four Books. To which is added, An Appendix, containing various Transcripts of Records, Letters, Instruments, Ordinances, Commissions, Discourses, Relations, Intelligences, and other Secret Papers, above an Hundred in Number; for the Asserting or Illustrating the foregoing History. Among which will be found the Latin Life of this A. Bp. Ranulph Matthæus, so much and so long wanted in the Editions of the British Antiquities. By John Strype, M. A. Printed for John Wyat at the Rose in St. Paul's Church-yard.

Whereas it hath been reported that Carew Reynell, Mercer, at the Black-a-Moors Head in Bedford Street Covent Garden, is minded to leave of his Trade, this is therefore to give notice to all Persons whom it may concern, that the said Report is unjust, false and groundless, and that the said Carew Reynell has no such intention, but continues at the aforesaid Shop together with his Partners, Tristram Huddleston, Isaac Spilsimber and Samuel Wrexham, the said Tristram Huddleston and Samuel Wrexham being removed from the Wheat-Sheaf in Bedford Street to the Black-a-Moors Head, viz. where there is the greatest variety of new Silks of all kinds and sorts, from the highest to the lowest price, to be sold at reasonable rates.

This Day is published,

The Wisdom of being Holy, in two parts, price 6d. Good Friday to be kept by all Christians, and the manner of keeping it. On Zech. 12. 10. Price 2d. Likewise that celebrated Sermon, call'd the Nature and Necessity of Restitution, On Luke 19. 8. Price 3d. Written by the Right Reverend Father in God William Beveridge D. D. Late Lord Bishop of St. Asaph. Printed for Rich. Smith at Exeter Change in the Strand, with her Majesty's Royal Privilege to him, and Prohibition to others. N. B. Those pious Persons that buy numbers of them to give away, shall have an allowance of 20 in the Hundred gratis. All this Author's Works, in Greek, Latin and English, may be had at the same Place.

Mr. Penkethman's Wonderful Invention, call'd the Pantheon: Or, the Temple of the Heathen-gods. The Work of Seven Years, and great Expence, is now perfected; being a most surprising and Magnificent Machine, consisting of 5 several curious Pictures; the Painting and Contrivance whereof is beyond Expression Admirable. The Figures, which are above 100, and move their Heads, Legs, Arms, and Fingers, so exactly to what they perform, and seem one Foot before another, like living Creatures, that it justly deserves to be esteem'd the greatest Wonder of the Age. To be seen from 10 in the Morning till 10 at Night, in the Little Piazza's Covent Garden, in the same House where Punch's Opera is. Price 1 s. 6 d. 1 s. and the lowest 6d.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in: as also by *Charles Lille*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.